THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No decision as such has so far been taken.

(c) and (d) Planning Commission has set up a Committee on Bio-fuel which has not submitted its report so far.

Impact of Crude prices on Oil Import

713. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of the recent increase in international crude oil prices on POL imports and the balance of trade;

(b) to what extent, the subsidies on POL have gone up; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to increase domestic POL prices in order to reduce subsidies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) A comparison of the quantum and value of the imports of crude oil and petroleum products during the period April—November 2002 with April —November 2001 is given below:

Period	Quantum of imports (in MMT*)	Value of Imports (in million US$)
April-November 2002	60.902	11,383.20
April-November 2001	55.116	9,676.80

*Million Metric Tonnes

(b) and (c) As of now, only PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG are subsidized products. Against the subsidy level of Rs. 4.05/liter and Rs. 115.63/cylinder respectively in the year 2001-02 on PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG, the corresponding subsidy in 2002-03 has come down to Rs. 2.45/litre and Rs. 67.75/cylinder respectively. Further, the existing subsidy will be phased out in the next three to five years.

Enhancement of Gas Production

714. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: